

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02 COME-00

DOT-00 FAA-00 CU-02 /054 W
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O R 031005Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8823

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR SIAM SERVICE VIA JAPAN

REF: A. BANGKOK 18432

B. STATE 261988

C. BANGKOK 18861

D. STATE 263103

1. DR. SRISOOK OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS TOLD EMBASSY DECEMBER 3 THAT RTG HAS REQUESTED URGENT CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN TO RESOLVE CIVAIR PROBLEMS. HE ANTICIPATES TALKS WILL BE CONVENED, PROBABLY IN TOKYO, BEFORE END OF WEEK. DR. SIRILAK CHANTHARANGSU, UNDERSECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, WILL CHAIR RTG DELEGATION.

2. RTG ACTION CAME IN RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM AIR SIAM BOARD MEMBER BUNTHAM THONGKHAIMUM (WHO IS ALSO RTG DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BUREAU OF THE BUDGET) TO MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS DR. CHAOVANA NA SYLVANTA ASKING IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE OF GOVERNMENT IN CLEARING WAY FOR DC-10 SERVICE LOS ANGELES-BANGKOK.

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3. IN REGARD PREVIOUS RTG-GOJ CIVAIR TALKS (REF B),

GROUP LED DR. CHITTI WACHARASINDHU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION, HELD TALKS WITH JAPANESE CAB IN TOKYO EARLY IN NOVEMBER, AND APPARENTLY ARRIVED AT TEMPORARY TOKYO-FUKUOKA FORMULA FOR AIR SIAM AND EXTRA SLOT AT TOKYO FOR THAI INTERNATIONAL ENROUTE SEOUL, PENDING DEFINITE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE AGREED IN FORMAL TALKS PRIOR TO MARCH 31, 1975 (REF A, PARA 2). HOWEVER, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, FOR WHATEVER MOTIVES, CONSIDERED FOREGOING "SUGGESTIONS" BROUGHT BACK FROM TOKYO BY CHITTI GROUP TO BE "UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS" IMPOSED BY JAPANESE CAB AND THEREFORE NOT CONSISTENT WITH TERMS OF RTG-GOT AGREEMENT.

4. AIR SIAM HAS RE-SCHEDULED INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO DEPART LOS ANGELES AT 0800 SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 AND TO DEPART BANGKOK AT 0800 MONDAY DECEMBER 9. MONDAY FLIGHT WILL CARRY GROUP OF THAI VIPS AND REPLICA OF BANGKOK'S FAMED EMERALD BUDDHA WHICH THAI STUDENTS IN LOS ANGELES PLAN TO ENSHRINE IN TEMPLE THERE. THAI AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON IS PLANNING TO WELCOME DECEMBER 9 FLIGHT ON ARRIVAL AT LOS ANGELES AND TO ESCORT BUDDHA IMAGE TO WAT.

5. COMMENT: FACT THAT AIR SIAM COULD SO RAPIDLY FORCE HAND OF RELUCTANT MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS IN THIS MATTER IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT AIRLINE HAS CONSIDERABLE CLOUT IN INNER WORKINGS OF RTG, AND WE SUGGEST THAT US AIRLINES BEAR THAT FACT IN MIND IN DECIDING WHETHER TO INTERVENE IN PROCEEDINGS ON AIR SIAM'S 402 PERMIT. HANDLING OF PROBLEM TO DATE BY THAIS AND GOJ HAS, OF COURSE, TAKEN HEAT OFF US AS REGARDS TIME REQUIRED TO AMEND 402 PERMIT, AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT, AS REQUESTED IN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NOTE OF NOVEMBER 26, USG CAN NOW ACCOMMODATE RTG AND AIR SIAM IN THIS MATTER WITHOUT UNREASONABLE DELAY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP STATUS OF 402 PROCEEDING AND, IF APPLICATION IS UNOPPOSED, BEST ESTIMATE AS TO WHETHER CAB WILL ACT BY DECEMBER 6. IF IT APPEARS DECEMBER 7 AND DECEMBER 9 FLIGHTS MIGHT HAVE TO BE CANCELLED FOR LACK OF FUKUOKA AUTHORITY IN PERMIT, WE SHOULD INFORM AIR SIAM ASAP. WE ASSUME ON BASIS PRIOR DISCUSSIONS (REF C) THAT GOJ WILL GRANT TEMPORARY FUKUOKA AUTHORITY IN RESPONSE RTG AGREEMENT TO CONSULT. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO18945
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740349-1156
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741266/aaaaceju.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BANGKOK 18432
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: AIR SIAM SERVICE VIA JAPAN
TAGS: EAIR, TH, AIR SIAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005